

The Coast Guard **RESERVIST**

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A View from the Bridge

by
RADM
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USCG

With the start of the new year, many of us make resolutions which we keep with varying degrees of success. You may recall that last year at this time we set a course to increase our strength to 12,800, and we were very successful. My congratulations to each of you for your personal involvement. This growth must continue. In addition, I propose a resolution that I hope you will strive to keep throughout the year and, indeed, throughout your entire career with the Coast Guard Reserve. This resolution can be summed up in one word: EXCELLENCE. Strive for excellence. The pursuit of excellence is not just a neatly-coined phrase. It is a way of life that each Reservist must embrace if we are to continue improving the quality of our force.

In order to maintain excellence, we need to have a clear picture of our mission. With a clear concept of the overall mission of the Coast Guard Reserve, we can see where we fit into that picture as individuals. In addition, it is easy to see how our activities on inactive and active duty relate to our total national defense. Our primary mission is mobilization readiness. You have, I am sure, heard this many times over. Let me put this concept into perspective.

America could not have won any major armed conflict without substantial support from her citizens. This support comes in the form of citizen-soldiers, citizen-sailors, and citizen-airmen. The concept of citizen-sailor is founded in the basic freedoms of this great republic.

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A port security patrol composed of both men and women establishes a perimeter watch around combat village.

Reservists Gain Combat Skills

September 1986 found 283 Coast Guard reservists from the 9th District participating in combat training with the Marine Corps at Quantico, VA. The reservists, from nine port security units around the Great Lakes, came to Quantico to participate in an accelerated course of combat skills. The participants completed training in weapons, patrolling, NBC defense, counter-terrorism, and orienteering.

RADM Alan Breed, Chief of Readiness and Reserve, in viewing the reservists' activities during their final days at Quantico, explained why reservists from the Great Lakes participated in the combat skills training: "There are many people from the Ninth District in port security units that have mobilization billets outside the

district. These personnel are the primary personnel for providing overseas deployment if the need should arise."

RADM Arnold Daniels, Ninth District Commander, was on hand to observe some of the training his camouflaged personnel took part in. Said RADM Daniels, "We need this type of training. We are a military organization, and lest we forget, we should stay on top of military training just like the other military services."

The culmination of the training was the two-day field exercise in combat village. Combat village, built to train Marines under combat conditions in an urban setting, became a Caribbean port where stored U.S. military supplies were threatened by a guerrilla takeover. The Coast Guard was to occupy and hold the village against the guerrillas, played by Marines, until all the supplies could be shipped out. The Coast

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Readiness Exercises Update

Around the country, Coast Guard reservists and active service members have been joining forces to exercise the implementation of the Maritime Defense Zone (MDZ). The *Reservist* would like to share information about two August 1986 readiness exercises dedicated to MDZ and a November 1986 exercise that came with a bit of a different flavor.

In Narragansett Bay, RI, First Shield '86, a weekend event with more than 500 participants, found aggressor forces attempting to breach friendly security forces at the port facilities at Davisville, RI. These unfriendly forces were to disrupt the organization and flow of supplies, and prevent the departure of a simulated convoy. Reserve and active duty Coast Guard, Navy, Army, and National Guard personnel joined forces to implement MDZ organization to protect port facilities and waterways from infiltration and attack. RADM Robert Johanson, Commander, First Coast Guard District, noted that the exercise activities were planned to be realistic and probable. He said, "The exercises represented good solid training for the combined forces and a realistic exercise of our abilities to guard against intrusion of a military or terrorist nature."

New Orleans, LA, saw Coastal Crescent '86, a two week readiness exercise, which brought together active and reserve Coast Guard personnel. During the first week of the training there was intense classroom training conducted by instructors from Yorktown, VA. Instruction ranged from small arms to Coast Guard authority and jurisdiction. During the second week, field exercises were conducted which simulated events including hostage negotiating situations and unfriendly forces breaching the security zone perimeter.

Inland, at Nashville, TN, reservists, active service, and auxiliary personnel took part in a weekend Flood Relief and Disaster Response Recovery Exercise. The drill scenarios provided hands-on experience in the operation of flood and pollution response equipment as well as in establishing and maintaining security zones around critical facilities. Heavy emphasis was placed on the stabilization and movement of stricken victims, responses to fire and pollution incidents, shore and harbor patrols, area security, and human rescue efforts. In addition to "hands-on" training, the exercise included a class offered by the medical personnel of Vanderbilt University's Air Rescue Team. The instructors demonstrated some of the latest techniques of first aid, and gave the reservists insight about coordination of efforts between Coast Guard and civilian rescue operations.

"We confess our bad qualities to others out of fear of appearing naive or ridiculous by not being aware of them."

—Gerald Brenan, British writer

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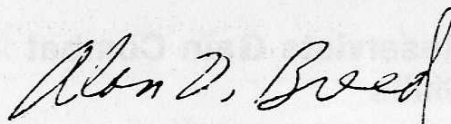
Your personal readiness to respond to a national emergency as a Coast Guard Reservist is the cornerstone of this concept. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is for you to be proficient and ready to use your wartime skills—with a clear understanding that your personal excellence is critical to the success of any national defense effort.

What does this mean in terms of your regular weekend duty and active duty training periods? Quite simply, it means that you should see the link between what you do now and what you will be expected to do upon mobilization. Meaningful augmentation training is extremely important. Augmentation gives you the chance to work with active duty members of the Coast Guard in the wide variety of missions that we perform. It is experience that will put you in good stead upon mobilization. The link between mission philosophy and actual training periods must be evident for you to feel good about your work and to help you be ready for mobilization. This link must be clear so that you can continue to meet that high quality of excellence. The link happens with augmentation.

In the event of mobilization, the Coast Guard's primary task will be in support of the Maritime Defense Zone. This means implementing a highly complex port safety and security program, working closely with our Navy counterparts and, for each of us, applying all that we have learned in defending the people and property of the United States. Only with personal excellence can we possibly carry out this national mandate.

As we continue to grow and carry out our responsibilities, we cannot afford to countenance non-performers in the Reserve Program. I encourage commanding officers to recognize and reward excellence in our forces, and to remove those few who fail to perform adequately. This will assure that as we continue to increase our Selected Reserve strength, the quality of our force will be maintained: a quality of excellence.

I wish each and every one of you a happy, prosperous, exciting, and rewarding New Year!



Chief, Office of Readiness and Reserve

Have Training? Jobs Open

The Federal Communications Commission has continuous vacancies nationwide for individuals with experience in operating radio wave monitoring and/or transmitting equipment. A knowledge of Morse Code is required. Contact Ross Jorgensen at (202) 632-7104 for details.

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This material is printed as information only and is not authority for official action.

Members of the Coast Guard Reserve are encouraged to submit short articles (in "plain English" of no more than 300 words, typed double spaced) and black and white photographs (at least 5x7 inches, with identifying captions) to the editor for possible publication. Submissions cannot be returned.

Reservists should report change of address to their District (r). The *Reservist* cannot process address changes.

Inquiries concerning the Coast Guard Reserve should be addressed to: Commandant (G-RSP), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593. Phone: (202) 267-0569 FTS 267-0569.

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30-year Assignment Limitation Program

Enlisted and Warrant Officer reservists may be assigned to Selected Reserve training/pay categories only during their first 30 years of service. On the thirtieth anniversary of their pay base date, reservists who are in the Selected Reserve will be transferred to an Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) training/pay category. They may continue to participate in training and earn retirement points, in a non-pay status, by performing Inactive Duty Training (IDT), Active Duty Training (ADT), and correspondence course study.

Since the initial implementation of the program there have been amendments to allow retention of the "best qualified" personnel. District Commanders (r) have the authority to grant waivers to members in critically underpopulated rates as well as ratings and specialties. Waivers may be granted to personnel who are maintaining a high level of performance. Some requests for waivers must be approved by Commandant (G-RST). These require a District endorsement which includes a definitive statement on the member's level of performance.

This policy will continue to stimulate advancement opportunity in rates, ratings, and specialties that are overpopulated while retaining members with high performance in rates, ratings, and specialties that are underpopulated. Warrant Officers and enlisted personnel that are transferred from the Selected Reserve to the IRR remain a mobilization asset to the Coast Guard.

Outstanding Enlisted Coast Guard Reservist

PS1 Johannes Verhaeg of Reserve Unit Albany, NY, has been named the Outstanding Enlisted Coast Guard Reservist for 1986 by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. Petty Officer Verhaeg, a 13-year veteran with the Coast Guard Reserve, was born in Holland and raised in Brazil. At present his primary duty is as a boarding officer with Port Safety Detachment Albany, and he holds a collateral duty as the unit Human Relations Petty Officer. In addition to these regular duties, PS1 Verhaeg contributes a great deal of time to community work and public relations activities representing the Coast Guard Reserve. Last year he completed almost 80 drill periods, receiving pay for only 48.

Petty Officer Verhaeg entered the Coast Guard as a PS2, having served as a police officer in Brazil for three years. He holds a BS in Criminology from the State University of Pernambuco. As a civilian, PS1 Verhaeg is an Assistant Vice President with Key Trust Company of Albany. He is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, as well as English and has served as a Coast Guard interpreter at a number of special events, including the Bicentennial and the Liberty '86 celebration.



PS1 Johannes Verhaeg of RU Albany, NY, holds the plaques awarded to him as the 1986 Outstanding Enlisted Coast Guard Reservist.

Barge Explodes

On 20 December 1986, a large barge exploded at Piney Point, MD, not far from Station Saint Inigo. The explosion occurred at 0230 hours as barge personnel were cleaning the barge of jet fuel in preparation to taking on fuel oil. In the ensuing hours, reserve, active service, and auxiliary Coast Guard personnel joined forces with civilian fire fighters and law enforcement personnel to extinguish the blaze and search for survivors. Four people aboard the barge died in the explosion. Reservists participated in the event by assisting auxiliary personnel with a mobile radio facility and as crew on the station's 41-foot utility boat. In addition, reserve personnel assigned to Marine Safety Office Baltimore assisted active personnel in the investigation of the cause of the explosion.

Reservists Mobilized in San Juan

In June 1986 the Coast Guard conducted an exercise in the Seventh District at Reserve Group Greater Antilles Section to assess security against terrorism. Coincidentally, on 26 August twenty-six reservists were mobilized at Greater Antilles Section (GANTSEC) in response to a very real terrorist threat. Voluntary mobilization was the Coast Guard's reaction to a tipoff from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that members of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN), known in English as the Armed Forces for National Liberation, were surveying the CG Base San Juan area for a possible terrorist attack. The FALN are also known as the Macheteros. Their targets are usually elements of the U.S. military. Several U.S. servicemen have been killed in previous attacks. The FBI's sighting of the Macheteros occurred on the anniversary of an FBI roundup of several FALN leaders.

The reservists' response was rapid. Two hours after GANTSEC was notified of the threat, two reservists reported for duty. Twenty-two more reported within 24 hours and the final contingent in less than 48 hours. The reserve force consisted of two boat crews for waterside patrols, communication watchstanders, and shoreside patrols along the Base perimeter. All members were small arms qualified. Fortunately, no terrorist activity was noted during the call-up.

What to do . . .

If you receive knowledge of a terrorist attack you should report it to the local police. If the threat is aimed against military personnel or installations, you should also notify your commanding officer. If you are approached by anyone from a Soviet block country you are to immediately notify the your commanding officer of the encounter.

Memorial Chapel to be Built at RTC Yorktown

On the edge of Wormley Creek, just behind Lincoln Hall, a Coast Guard Memorial Chapel will be built to honor those who have attended or served at the Reserve Training Center since it was established in 1958. A non-profit, single purpose foundation has been formed to gather the necessary funds to build the Memorial Chapel and to establish a continuing trust fund to provide for operation, maintenance, and repairs. This approach is to prevent the new structure from inducing a new strain on the Operating Expense Budget at the Reserve Training Center. For its fund raising drive, the Foundation plans to contact individual reservists, active duty commands, as well as private organizations, businesses, and individuals.

Writings on the Reserve

An annual \$500 prize has been established honoring the author of the "best scholarly article on American reserve policy or the history of the reserve components of the American Armed Forces," according to a joint announcement of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States (ROA) and the American Military Institute (AMI). Stressing that the emphasis on the work should be "upon 'new knowledge' either original research or original interpretive synthesis," the ROA-AMI announcement said that "the article could come from any history journal or journal/magazine."

Papers can be nominated by anyone and will be judged by a jury of three selected by the AMI. The deadline for nomination for works published in 1986 will be April 1, 1987. The winner will be announced at ROA's national convention. Nominations should be sent to ROA-AMI Essays, American Military Institute, c/o Reserve Officers Association, 1 Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Information on the award can be obtained from the same address.

New Commissary Benefits

The closing days of the 99th Congress brought a new benefit for drilling reservists: expanded use of military commissaries. The new procedures will permit reservists to spread their use of commissaries over the year based on one visit per day of active duty, not to exceed 14 a year. The *Reservist* will provide further information when the the Department of Defense directives are published.

Reservists and Taxes

If your normal workweek is Monday through Friday and you drill with the Coast Guard Reserve one weekend a month in the general area of your legal home for tax purposes, the cost of transportation from your home to the reserve drills is generally a commuting expense. You may not deduct it.

If the drills are held outside the general area of your tax home, you may deduct the cost of your transportation to attend them. If the reserve drills are held after work on a normal workday, even if your regular employment is with a Coast Guard or Department of Defense activity, you may deduct the expense of getting from one place to the other. However, if for some personal reason you do not go directly from one location to the other, you may deduct only the amount it would have cost you to go directly from the first location to the second.

Also, you may deduct the unreimbursed cost of your uniform if military regulations restrict you from wearing it except while on duty as a reservist. In figuring the deduction, you must reduce the cost by any nontaxable allowance you receive for these expenses.

Standing Before the Board

During a career with the Coast Guard Reserve there may be many times that you find yourself "standing before the board." This could be a direct commission selection board, an officer promotion board, a Reserve Program Administrator (RPA) selection board, or a Warrant Officer selection board. These are just a few of the career boards reservists might face. All of these have one thing in common. You want to be the one selected, so you need to put your best foot forward and highlight your strengths.

The single most important document that a board has to evaluate your past performance and future potential is the evaluation form. For officers, this is the Officer Evaluation Report (OER). For enlisted personnel before a direct commission or Warrant Officer selection board, the Enlisted Performance Evaluation (EPE) serves as this important document.

With the OER, reporting officers need to be very specific in their remarks. The board needs to be told exactly what the officer has accomplished, clearly citing weaknesses and strengths. Avoid generalities. If the reporting officer feels the officer under evaluation should be recommended for promotion, they should say so in direct language. If it is felt the officer in question is not qualified, this too should be stated directly, with complete and specific reasons.

Never assume that a service record held by Commandant (G-RSA) is complete—check it out if you have the opportunity. Service records are full of active duty orders, pay and point information, medical and security information, and documents about performance. It is in your interest to ensure that service records are complete.

Although not required, candidates for promotion are encouraged to submit a resume. This document can be very helpful to the board. It gives a concise summary of a candidate's career which can be verified by reviewing documents contained in the service record. Without a resume, or similar summary, the board may miss an important qualification as it reviews a service record.

All candidates are invited to address a letter to the president of their board, via the chain of command. Few people do, however, especially in the lower grades. It is just as important for junior-level personnel to let the board know the complete story. A letter can fill in unexplained changes in your career, such as a transfer to the IRR, an unsatisfactory year, or nonaffiliation with a reserve unit. This letter is a good vehicle to emphasize training, awards, experience, community involvements, future plans and goals, and any other items that might otherwise be overlooked which could influence the board's decision.

Selection and promotion boards initially set criteria they will use as standards in evaluating candidates. These may vary from board to board, but it is important to know generally what criteria are used. Normally the overall qualifications of the candidates are very close,

so anything candidates can do to emphasize the positive is to their benefit. Below is a sample (not in any particular order) of what some past boards have used, in addition to the OER/EPE, as criteria for selection or promotion:

- Experience indicator
- Qualification codes
- Active duty experience and training
- Availability
- Military service
- Awards and decorations
- Motivation and dedication
- Potential
- Service assignment
- Civilian education and training
- Correspondence courses

The above factors are not necessarily all inclusive and relative factor weights may be assigned by each board.

Summer Stock '87

The Ninth District is once again gearing up for Operation Summer Stock. Reservists from throughout the country will crew SAR stations in the Great Lakes region during the summer months. Three seasonal stations will be Reserve operated: Plum Island, WI; Manistee, MI; and Harbor Beach, MI. Reservists will also augment full-year stations at Niagara, NY; Marblehead (Sandusky), OH; and Belle Isle (Detroit), MI. Belle Isle and Harbor Beach will both have new facilities for the 1987 season.

Interested reservists should submit their TEMAC applications on a CG-3453 via their District (rt) to the 9th District (rp-ss) as soon as possible, but no later than 14 March 1987. Qualifications as indicated by the billet must be documented. The Ninth District is most interested in attracting qualified small boat coxswains and engineers for the entire summer season, but all applications for 30 days or more will be considered. Anyone with a mobilization assignment related to small boat operations can receive valuable training and experience that will better prepare them for their assignment. Of course, a job for the summer is not such a bad deal either.

For information on available billets, phone LCDR S. L. Magnusen at (216) 522-3967 or FTS 942-3967.



A reservist defends against an attack by the Marines on the Coast Guard held combat village.

Awards for Employers

Have your civilian employers facilitated your membership in the Coast Guard Reserve? If so, maybe you would like to nominate them for an award.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) conducts an award program designed to honor employers who support a strong Guard and Reserve program.

The top award in the program is the prestigious PRO PATRIA, a Latin expression meaning "for the nation." The award symbolizes the patriotism of the recipient, who has indicated support of the national defense by adopting personnel policies which make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. Award of the PRO PATRIA is highly selective; no more than one award will be given in each state annually.

In addition to PRO PATRIA—awarded by the Secretary of Defense—there are two other awards. There is The State Chairman's Award, a plaque-mounted certificate presented by state committees for employer support, and The Employer Support Certificate of Appreciation, awarded by the National Committee on behalf of the Department of Defense.

All members of the Coast Guard Reserve are eligible to nominate their employers for the PRO PATRIA award. Employers qualify for recognition when they practice personnel policies that support employee participation in the Reserve program. Federal law requires employers to grant excused absences to Guard and Reserve members for military training, so simple compliance with the law does not qualify an employer for an award. There are no losers in the competition, however. Though not every employer nominated can win a PRO PATRIA award, each will receive the Employer Support Certificate of Appreciation. Each nominee will be considered for both PRO PATRIA and—by the appropriate state committee—for the State Chairman's Award. Nominations may be submitted at any time. There is no cut-off date, and the program is a continuing effort.

For information about the awards and a nomination form, contact the National Committee's Awards Officer, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, P.O. Drawer 9660, Arlington, VA 22209-0660 or phone (800) 336-4590 or (202) 696-5307.

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Guard took over the town, established inner and outer perimeters and manned a command post in the center of town. The reservists from the Great Lakes successfully warded off several guerrilla attacks and early on the second morning completed their mission and made an orderly withdrawal.

The training was well received and provided the participants greater confidence in being prepared to perform their mobilization assignments in a hostile environment, if necessary.